

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3685

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0763

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC AO

SUBJECT: LUANDA CONSULAR CORPS MEETS ON SECURITY, EVACUATION
PROSPECTS

PARA 7 FOR BRASILIA; PRETORIA FOR RSO

1. THE LUANDA CONSULAR CORPS (U.K., FRANCE, FRG, S. AFRICA, BELGIUM, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, U.S.) MET ON JUNE 9 TO REVIEW THE LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION. THE BRAZILIAN "SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT," OVIDIO DE ANDRADE, ALSO ATTENDED. WITH NO VISIBLE DISSENT THE GROUP FELT EMERGENCY EVACUATION WOULD BE NECESSARY AT SOME POINT. FOR THE GROUP, THE QUESTION IS NO LONGER IF BUT WHEN. BUT NOT YET.

2. EACH MEMBER OF THE CONSULAR CORPS HAS AGREED TO NOTIFY HIS COLLEAGUES WHEN EITHER HE RECOMMENDS (OR HIS GOVERNMENT ORDERS) EVACUATION. FURTHER, THE CORPS WILL MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE JOINTLY WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND REPS OF THE
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THREE LIBERATION GROUPS TO REQUEST ASSURANCES THAT THE PORTUGUESE

AND THE GROUPS WILL GUARANTEE EGRESS VIA THE PORT AND AIRPORT WHEN IT BECOMES NECESSARY. (COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS CONSULAR CORPS SECURITY MEETINGS, THERE ARE TWO SHARP CONTRASTS: FIRST, THERE IS NO LONGER ANY FEELING THAT THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES ARE ABLE TO PROTECT FOREIGNERS AND, FOLLOWING FROM THIS, THAT MEETINGS WITH THE HC ARE A MEANINGLESS BUT NEVERTHELESS NECESSARY FORMALITY.

3. IN THE CORPS' OPINION, AIR EVACUATION IS PROGRESSIVELY LESS LIKELY. WHETHER OR NOT TRUE THERE IS A WIDESPREAD FEELING THAT MPLA HAS SAM'S AND MIGHT USE THEM. SEA EVACUATION NOW LOOKS BOTH MORE FEASIBLE AND MUCH SAFER. AT PRESENT THERE ARE NOW TWO BRITISH SHIPS, ONE GERMAN (CYPRIOT FLAG) AND U.S. SHIP IN THE HARBOR.

4. THE GERMAN, FRENCH AND SOUTH AFRICAN CONSULATES EITHER HAVE OR WILL SOON REDUCE THEIR STAFFS. THE GERMANS, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL DROP FROM EIGHT GERMAN CITIZEN EMPLOYEES TO FOUR. OF THEIR FOUR GERMAN SECURITY GUARDS (PLAINCLOTHES POLICE FROM GERMANY), THEY HAVE SENT TWO PACKING AND MAY SEND BACK THE REMAINDER. (THE GUARDS ARE BEING REPATRIATED AFTER BEING FOUND TO BE MORE BOTHER THAN WORTH.)

5. ACCORDING TO THE SOMEWHAT BEMUSED GERMAN AND FRENCH CG'S, BONN AND PARIS ARE CONSULTING SO CLOSELY ON THE ANGOLAN SECURITY SITUATION THAT THEY BOTH RECEIVE IDENTICALLY WORDED INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

6. IF AIR EVAC IS NECESSARY, THE CONSULS WILL SUGGEST THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS COORDINATE SEATING CAPACITY TO AVOID SENDING MORE AIRCRAFT THAN NECESSARY. IF BY SEA, ALL WITH FLAG (OR FLAGGED-OUT BUT STILL OWNED) SHIPPING AVAILABLE HAVE AGREED TO TAKE OTHER NATIONS ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS AFTER THEIR OWN NATIONS ARE LOADED. INTRA-CITY RADIO EQUIPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS ARE BEING COORDINATED BETWEEN MISSIONS AND IN SOME CASES MORE EQUIPMENT IMPORTED. THE BRITISH ARE IN THE PROCESS OF INSTALLING A DIRECT RADIO/TELEX LINK WITH LONDON.

7. FOR BRASILIA: THE BRAZILIAN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IS A CHASTENED AND DISILLUSIONED MAN. HE NOW ADMITS HIS OPTIMISM
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ON ARRIVAL HERE WAS MISTAKEN. "ANYONE", HE NOW CONTENTS, "WHO THINKS HE KNOWS WHAT IS GOING ON IN ANGOLA IS SADLY UNINFORMED." DURING THE JUNE 9 MEETING HE WAS POINTEDLY TAKEN TO TASK FOR NOT HAVING SUGGESTED THAT THE FNLA MINISTER OF HEALTH, ABRIGADA, POSTPONE HIS TRIP TO BRAZIL AT LEAST UNTIL LUANDA'S MAIN HOSPITAL, BAMBARDED BY FNLA ROCKETS, WAS SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED. THE HEALTH MINISTER'S TRIP HAS GENERATED MIXED BUT SURPRISINGLY ACID CRITICISM OF BOTH HIM AND - PERHAPS UNFAIRLY - BRAZIL.

PORTER

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